

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 135

To establish the “Twenty-First Century Water Commission” to study and develop recommendations for a comprehensive water strategy to address future water needs.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 2003

Mr. LINDER (for himself, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. SHUSTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## A BILL

To establish the “Twenty-First Century Water Commission” to study and develop recommendations for a comprehensive water strategy to address future water needs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Twenty-First Century  
5 Water Commission Act of 2003”.

### 6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1           (1) the Nation’s water resources will be utilized  
2           to their fullest capacity in the coming decades;

3           (2) a thorough assessment of technological ad-  
4           vances that can be employed to increase water sup-  
5           plies in every region of the county is important and  
6           long overdue; and

7           (3) a comprehensive strategy to increase avail-  
8           able water supplies is vital to the economic and envi-  
9           ronmental future of the Nation.

10 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

11           There is established a commission to be known as the  
12 “Twenty-First Century Water Commission” (in this Act  
13 referred to as the “Commission”).

14 **SEC. 4. DUTIES.**

15           The duties of the Commission shall be to—

16           (1) use existing water assessments and conduct  
17           such additional assessments as may be necessary to  
18           project future water supply and demand;

19           (2) study current water management programs  
20           of Federal, State, and local agencies, and private  
21           sector entities directed at increasing water supplies;  
22           and

23           (3) consult with representatives of such agen-  
24           cies and entities to develop recommendations for a  
25           comprehensive water strategy which—

1 (A) respects the primary role of States in  
2 adjudicating, administering, and regulating  
3 water rights and water uses;

4 (B) identifies incentives intended to ensure  
5 an adequate and dependable supply of water to  
6 meet the needs of the United States for the  
7 next 50 years;

8 (C) suggests strategies that avoid in-  
9 creased mandates on State and local govern-  
10 ments;

11 (D) eliminates duplication and conflict  
12 among Federal governmental programs;

13 (E) considers all available technologies for  
14 increasing water supply efficiently while safe-  
15 guarding the environment;

16 (F) recommends means of capturing excess  
17 water and flood water for conservation and use  
18 in the event of a drought;

19 (G) suggests financing options for public  
20 works projects;

21 (H) suggests strategies to conserve existing  
22 water supplies, including recommendations for  
23 repairing aging infrastructure; and

1 (I) includes other objectives related to  
2 water supply which the Commission shall con-  
3 sider appropriate.

4 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.**

5 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission  
6 shall be composed of 7 members appointed by the Presi-  
7 dent.

8 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members shall be appointed  
9 to the Commission from among individuals who—

10 (1) are of recognized standing and distinction  
11 in water policy issues; and

12 (2) while serving on the Commission, do not  
13 hold any other position as an officer or employee of  
14 the United States, except as a retired officer or re-  
15 tired civilian employee of the United States.

16 (c) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—In appointing mem-  
17 bers of the Commission, every effort shall be made to en-  
18 sure that the members represent a broad cross section of  
19 regional and geographical perspectives in the United  
20 States.

21 (d) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Com-  
22 mission shall be designated by the President.

23 (e) TERMS.—Members of the Commission shall be  
24 appointed not later than 90 days after the date of enact-

1 ment of this Act and shall serve for the life of the Commis-  
2 sion.

3 (f) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commission shall  
4 not affect its operation, and shall be filled in the same  
5 manner as the original appointment provided under sub-  
6 section (a).

7 (g) COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Mem-  
8 bers of the Commission shall serve without compensation,  
9 except members shall receive travel expenses, including per  
10 diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable  
11 provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57, United  
12 States Code.

13 **SEC. 6. MEETINGS AND QUORUM.**

14 (a) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall hold its first  
15 meeting not later than 60 days after the date on which  
16 all members have been appointed under section 4, and  
17 shall hold additional meetings at the call of the Chair-  
18 person or a majority of its members.

19 (b) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the  
20 Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction  
21 of business.

22 **SEC. 7. DIRECTOR AND STAFF.**

23 The Commission may appoint a Director and Staff  
24 who shall be paid at a rate not to exceed the maximum  
25 rate of basic pay for GS–15 of the General Schedule.

1 **SEC. 8. POWERS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION.**

2 (a) HEARINGS.—The Commission shall hold no fewer  
3 than 10 hearings during the life of the Commission. Hear-  
4 ings may be held in conjunction with meetings of the Com-  
5 mission. The Commission may take such testimony and  
6 receive such evidence as the Commission considers appro-  
7 priate to carry out this Act. At least 1 hearing shall be  
8 held in Washington, D.C., for the purpose of taking testi-  
9 mony of representatives of Federal agencies, national or-  
10 ganizations, and Members of Congress. Other hearings  
11 shall be scheduled in distinct geographical regions of the  
12 United States and should seek to ensure testimony from  
13 individuals with a diversity of experiences, including those  
14 who work on water issues at all levels of government and  
15 in the private sector.

16 (b) INFORMATION AND SUPPORT FROM FEDERAL  
17 AGENCIES.—Upon request of the Commission, any Fed-  
18 eral agency shall—

19 (1) provide to the Commission, within 30 days  
20 of its request, such information as the Commission  
21 considers necessary to carry out the provisions of  
22 this Act; and

23 (2) detail to temporary duty with the Commis-  
24 sion on a reimbursable basis such personnel as the  
25 Commission considers necessary to carry out the

1 provisions of this Act, in accordance with Section  
2 5(b)(5), Appendix, title 5, United States Code.

3 **SEC. 9. REPORTS.**

4 (a) INTERIM REPORTS.—Not later than 6 months  
5 after the date of the first meeting of the Commission, and  
6 every 6 months thereafter, the Commission shall transmit  
7 an interim report containing a detailed summary of its  
8 progress, including meetings and hearings conducted in  
9 the interim period, to—

10 (1) the President;

11 (2) the Committee on Resources and the Com-  
12 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the  
13 House of Representatives; and

14 (3) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-  
15 sources and the Committee on the Environment and  
16 Public Works of the Senate.

17 (b) FINAL REPORT.—As soon as practicable, but not  
18 later than 3 years after the date of the first meeting of  
19 the Commission, the Commission shall transmit a final re-  
20 port containing a detailed statement of the findings and  
21 conclusions of the Commission, and recommendations for  
22 legislation to implement such findings and conclusions,  
23 to—

24 (1) the President;

1           (2) the Committee on Resources and the Com-  
2       mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the  
3       House of Representatives; and

4           (3) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-  
5       sources and the Committee on the Environment and  
6       Public Works of the Senate.

7   **SEC. 10. TERMINATION.**

8       The Commission shall terminate not later than 30  
9       days after the date on which the Commission transmits  
10      a final report under section 7(b).

11   **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12      There are authorized to be appropriated \$9,000,000  
13      to carry out this Act.

○